

the present divisional application were filed in the parent case, Application No. 08/782,817, as evidenced by the attached copy of the receipt postcard bearing the stamp of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Applicant respectfully requests acknowledgment of the claim for foreign priority and the receipt of the certified copy.

Claims 45-53 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,228,118 (Sasaki) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,580,177 (Gase et al.).

Applicant submits that independent Claims 45, 48, and 51, together with the claims dependent thereon, are patentably distinct from the cited prior art for at least the following reasons.

The aspect of the present invention set forth in Claim 45 is directed to an information processing apparatus. The apparatus includes a determiner, an inquirer, and a receiver. The determiner is adapted for determining a presence or an absence of a printer connected to a network by inquiring information of the network. The inquirer is adapted for making an inquiry about a printer language supported by the printer connected to the network, if the determiner determines that the printer is connected to the network. The receiver is adapted for receiving information about the printer language supported by the printer. The information about the printer language is sent in response to the inquiry.

One important feature of Claim 45 is that the apparatus determines a presence or an absence of a printer by inquiring information of the network. The printer is determined to be absent if there is no response to the inquiry. The printer is determined to be present if a response to the inquiry is transferred to the apparatus. By virtue of this feature, the apparatus is able to identify a printer that a user does not notice.

Sasaki, as understood by Applicant, relates to a printing system with a printer

having at least one interpreter for interpreting print data. The Office Action states that Sasaki discloses the inquirer and the receiver of Claim 45, but "does not teach a determination circuit adapted for determining a presence or an absence of a printer connected to a network. Sasaki does not specify making an inquiry about a printer language supported by the printer connected to the network if the determination circuit determines the presence of the printer connected to the network."

Gase et al., as understood by Applicant, relates to a network system that includes client computers, a file server, and printers. Apparently, Gase et al. teaches that if a printer is added to a site, each client must be informed of the network configuration change and a printer driver must be installed on the client computers for the printer.

Applicant submits that a combination of Sasaki and Gase et al., assuming such combination would even be permissible, would fail to teach or suggest an information processing apparatus that includes "a determiner adapted for determining a presence or an absence of a printer connected to a network by inquiring information of the network," as recited in Claim 45. As mentioned above, Gase et al. merely teaches that if a printer is added to a site, each client computer must be informed of the network configuration change. As understood by Applicant, Gase et al. does not disclose or suggest *how* to determine if a printer has been added. The apparatus of Claim 45, however, determines whether a printer is present or absent in a network by inquiring information of the network. The printer is determined to be absent if there is no response to the inquiry. The printer is determined to be present if a response to the inquiry is transferred to the apparatus.

Accordingly, for at least the above reasons, Applicant submits that Claim 45 is


patentable over the cited art, and respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Independent Claims 48 and 51 are method and computer storage medium claims corresponding to Claim 45, and are believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 45.

The other claims in this application depend from one or another of the independent claims discussed above, and, therefore, are submitted to be patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, individual consideration or reconsideration, as the case may be, of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


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Date 3 / 25 / 97
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Application No. 081782.817

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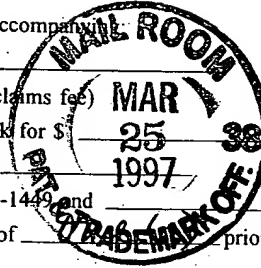
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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE TO CLAIMS

45. (Amended) An information processing apparatus comprising:

a [determination circuit] determiner adapted for determining a presence or an absence of a printer connected to a network by inquiring information of the network;

an [inquiry circuit] inquirer adapted for making an inquiry about a printer language supported by the printer connected to the network if said [determination circuit] determiner determines the presence of the printer connected to the network; and

a receiver adapted for receiving information about the printer language supported by the printer, wherein the information about the printer language is sent in response to the inquiry.

48. (Amended) An information processing method comprising the steps of:

determining a presence or an absence of a printer connected to a network by inquiring information of the network;

making an inquiry about a printer language supported by the printer to the printer connected to the network if said determining step determines the presence of the printer connected to the network; and

receiving information about the printer language supported by the printer, wherein the information about the printer language is sent in response to the inquiry.

51. (Amended) A computer-readable storage medium for storing a program for implementing an information processing method, the program comprising:

code for determining a presence or an absence of a printer connected to a network
by inquiring information of the network;

code for making an inquiry about a printer language supported by the printer to the printer connected to the network if said code for determining determines the presence of the printer connected to the network; and

code for receiving information about the printer language supported by the printer, wherein the information about the printer language is sent in response to the inquiry.